



PHANTOM ENERGY LOSS

Some of the biggest energy wasters in most homes are the adapters that come with rechargeable battery-powered cordless phones, cell phones, digital cameras, power tools, and other electronic devices. Most draw power whenever they're plugged into an outlet, regardless of whether the device is connected. This wasted energy adds up to 65 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year.

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THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW EASY WAYS TO PREVENT THIS UNNECESSARY ENERGY LOSS:

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UNPLUG IT. Unplugging devices when they are not being used eliminates any potential energy loss. To save the time and hassle of unplugging all the components of a computer or home entertainment system, use a power strip or surge suppressor that can be turned off with a single switch.

CHECK THE LABEL. When buying an appliance or electronic device, choose the model that uses the least standby power. ENERGYSTAR-labeled models are a good choice because they use less energy for both regular and standby operation.

KEEP IT SIMPLE. Avoid buying products that include "bells and whistles" you don't need. Some of these extra features might waste energy.

